

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present application has been reviewed in light of the Final Office Action mailed August 10, 2005. Claims 1, 6-17, 20, 27, 28 and 30-32 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1, 11, and 27 have been amended herein, and claims 2-5, 18, 19, 21-26 and 29 have been canceled herein. Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The examiners indication of the allowability of claims 5, 19, 20, 29 and 31 if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims is acknowledged and gratefully appreciated.

Claims 1, 2, 10-12, 21-23, 27 and 32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,627,421 to Symbas et al. It is respectfully submitted that each of claims 1, 11 and 27, as amended herein, are allowable over Symbas.

Independent claim 1 has been amended herein to include the allowable subject matter of allowable dependent claim 5. Accordingly, in view of the amendment of independent claim 1 to include the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 5, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 1, as being anticipated by Symbas, has been rendered moot. Since claims 6-10 and 32 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1, and contain all of the features of claim 1, claims 6-10 and 32 are also allowable over Symbas.

Independent claim 11 has been amended herein to include the allowable subject matter of allowable dependent claim 19. Accordingly, in view of the amendment of independent claim 11 to include the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 19, it is respectfully submitted that the

rejection of claim 11, as being anticipated by Symbas, has been rendered moot. Since claim 12 and 20 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 11, and contain all of the features of claim 11, claims 12 and 20 are also allowable over Symbas.

The rejection of claims 21-23 as being anticipated by Symbas has been rendered moot as a result of the cancellation of claims 21-23 herefrom.

Independent claim 27 has been amended herein to include the allowable subject matter of allowable dependent claim 29. Accordingly, in view of the amendment of independent claim 27 to include the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 29, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 27, as being anticipated by Symbas, has been rendered moot.

Claims 1-4, 10 and 32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent D440,268 to Colon. It is respectfully submitted that claim 1, as amended herein, are allowable over Colon.

As discussed above, independent claim 1 has been amended herein to include the allowable subject matter of allowable dependent claim 5. Accordingly, in view of the amendment of independent claim 1 to include the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 5, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 1, as being anticipated by Colon, has been rendered moot. Since claim 32 depends, directly or indirectly, from claim 1, and contains all of the features of claim 1, claim 32 is also allowable over Colon.

Claims 13-18, 24-26 and 28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 4,627,421 to Symbas et al.

In view of the amendment of claim 11 to include the subject matter of allowable claim 19, and since claims 13-18 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 11 and contain all of the features of claim 11, it is respectfully submitted that claims 13-18 are also patentable over Symbas et al.

The rejection of claims 24-26 as being unpatentable over Symbas has been rendered moot as a result of the cancellation of claims 24-26 herefrom.

In view of the amendment of claim 27 to include the subject matter of allowable claim 29, and since claim 28 depends directly from claim 27 and contains all of the features of claim 27, it is respectfully submitted that claim 28 are also patentable over Symbas et al.

Claims 6-9 and 30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent D440,268 to Colon in view of U.S. Patent 2,238,563 to Jacques.

In view of the amendment of claim 1 to include the subject matter of allowable claim 5, and since claims 6-9 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1 and contain all of the features of claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that claims 6-9 are also patentable over Colon in view of Jacques.


In view of the amendment of claim 27 to include the subject matter of allowable claim 29, and since claim 30 depends directly from claim 27 and contains all of the features of claim 27, it is respectfully submitted that claim 30 is also patentable over Colon in view of Jacques.

In view of the amendments made to the claims, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections of the claims in the present Office Action has been rendered moot. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is allowable.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview may facilitate prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone Applicants' undersigned representative at the number indicated below.

An early and favorable response is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Francesco Sardone", written over a horizontal line.

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